

THE FERGUSON CASE.

Evidence Heard by the Grand Jury—An Indictment against Burke and Chase Probable—Grand Opera House Deplorable Condition.

The grand jury last week was kept busy hearing testimony in the action of the United States vs. Burke and Chase, the civil rights test case in which Mr. W. T. Ferguson is the chief prosecuting witness. The case, as all will remember, grew out of the discrimination practiced against colored people by the management of the Grand Opera House during the recent Williams and Walker engagement. Mr. Ferguson and two ladies were ejected from the premises on account of their color, and many well known citizens were either flatly refused admission to the orchestra, or were robbed of their rightful coupons by a "flim flam" process and forced into the balcony. The testimony before the grand jury it is said, was direct and conclusive, and there seems little room for doubt that an indictment against Burke and Chase will be made out. From the evidence open to the public at large, the violation of the law is plain and a failure of the grand jury to indict would be a monstrous outrage.

Those who are in a position to know, intimate that the business affairs of Burke and Chase are in a bad condition. The Grand rental is heavy, and for the most part the expenses exceed the receipts, and the backers of the enterprise are losing money rapidly. They say for Burke that he is a gentleman and is disgusted with Chase's assinine policy toward colored people, which has cost the firm no less than \$1,000 in litigation. The shows given at the house are of an inferior order, and it is regarded as only a question of time when the doors will close for good. Chase has found that drawing the color line on Washington's respectable and intelligent Negro population is a costly experiment. Managers Rapley, Luckett and Dwyer, Painter, Kernan and Wellington, of the other theaters, are first-class business men and have no trouble with their numerous Negro patrons. Chase is "up against it hard."

The New Haven News.

New Haven, Conn., Special—There has been provided at No. 78 Webster street, a place known as the Connecticut News Headquarters where all important news that will be of interest to Afro-Americans throughout the state will be received and given out through the Afro-American press. In a few days we will be able to furnish our patrons with all periodicals gotten out by Negroes only. I will supply you with any colored newspaper that is printed and especially The Colored American which I would recommend to the most brilliant newspaper published from the Negro press. The union services of the Dixwell Avenue Congregational and Bethel A. M. E. church ended up on last Sunday afternoon. At the Immanuel Baptist church with a most magnificent sermon delivered by the Rev. Dr. Israel Derrick pastor of the Bethel A. M. E. church. The sermons delivered by the three pulpit giants, Revs. A. Claton Powells, T. Nelson Baker and Dr. Derrick have aroused more interest for the Christian church in this city, than any effort that was ever put forth. The Goffe street branch of the Y. M. C. A. has started out on another years journey. It is hoped that the association will be patronized and supported better this year than in the past. Why do not the young men of

New Haven prize this association high enough to spend their afternoons and evenings in the building? Every attraction suitable for the occasion has been provided to amuse the young men of our city, yet they fail to take hold. All men are invited to the Y. M. C. A. rooms, corner Goffe and Sperry streets, from 10 a. m. until 9 p. m. daily. Rev. Israel Derrick began the revival meetings at Bethel A. M. E. church last Monday evening. Rev. George W. Lee, of Washington, D. C. will conduct the revival meetings at the Immanuel Baptist church, beginning February 12th, 1900. Rev. A. C. Powell, pastor of the Immanuel Baptist church, preached an eloquent sermon to the First Separate Company of the Connecticut National Guard, Sunday evening, taking for his text, Judges the 7th chapter and 6th verse. In spite of the storm the church was crowded. A. LEE EPPS.

The Charlottesville, (Va.) Letter.

Charlottesville, Va., Special—The celebration of the first anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, took place at the First Baptist church, Rev. R. C. Quarles pastor, on the 26th of January. The following interesting program was rendered on that occasion: Scripture reading Rev. E. Duke Venture, prayer by chaplain Mr. A. F. Angel, singing by congregation, opening remarks by pastor Rev. R. C. Quarles, address by president Mr. J. H. Dickinson, duett Misses Bessie Ferrell and Mamie Coles, "Beautiful Moonlight," paper Rev. C. N. Harris, subject, "Do Something," singing by quintett Richard Chisholm, Walker Jackson, Howard Watson, John Tonsler and Earnest Preston, recitation by Miss Annie Bryant, "Bernado del Carpio," echoes from the annual conference by Secretary C. H. Bullock, singing, trio, Misses Mamie Coles, Bessie Ferrell and Howard Watson, essay by Miss Lizzie Coles, subject, "Character and its Values," singing by quintett, "Break the news to Mother" Howard Watson, John Tonsler, Richard Chisholm, Earnest Preston and Walker Jackson. After the program was rendered, refreshments were served in the lecture room by a committee of the ladies auxiliary of whom Mrs. Alice Minor was chairman. The effect of the Y. M. C. A. for the good of our young is showing itself day by day. Quite a successful revival is in progress at the Ebenezer Baptist church, Rev. C. N. Harris pastor, is being assisted by Rev. C. H. Phillips of Beaver Dam, Va. and the other pastors of the city. Up to this writing over twenty converts are reported with prospects of increased success. Mr. W. D. Barnes left last week for Basic City, Va. to accept a position as assistant teacher in the Valley Institute of which Prof. B. W. Tyrrell is principal. Miss Mary Martin left last week for Morgan College, Lynchburg, Va. in company with her sister, Mrs. Lizzie Harris, who will visit in Lynchburg before returning home. Rev. G. C. Cary, pastor of St. John Baptist church and Mechums River Baptist church of the county was in town Saturday and subscribed for The Colored American. He reports his work as very successful at his fields of labor. Misses Bertha Kenney, Lottie Lewis, Mrs. Gertrude Heiskell; Maggie Terry and Messrs. D. A. Smith, Wm. Jackson and Jackson Burley teachers in the county were in the city Saturday. The American is on sale at Pollard's or can be gotten from A. F. Angel at the university.

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[TRADE-MARK.]

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